v) increasing productivity in both underground and open cast mines.

vi) emergency coal production has been planned for increasing production in existing mines/projects.

Efforts are being made to exploit and use Coal in a judicious and environment friendly manner. Other sources of energy including environment friendly alternative sources of energy are also being exploited.

Coal accumulation in Jharkhand

†2725. SHRIAJAY MAROO: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

whether it is a fact that heavy stock of coal has accumulated at the pit head of three coal companies namely, CCL, BCCL and ECL situated in Jharkhand;

if so, the reasons therefor; and

the steps being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

Good monsoon during the year 2005-06 resulted in unprecedented growth in hydel power generation and thus adversely affecting the demand of coal by thermal power stations. Improved availability of imported coal has also affected the despatch of coal.

Coal India Limited has been advised to increase the sale of coal under e-marketing and the Thermal Power Stations have been advised to build up stock of coal at the normative level, in order to liquidate the stock.

Regulatory Commissions for Coal and Telecommunications

†2726. SHRI LAXMINARAYAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

whether any regulatory Commission is likely to be constituted for coal also on the lines of the similar commission constituted for Power and Telecommunication, so that, interests of the consumers are protected; and

if so, by when?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hind**i.**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO): (a) The Government has not yet decided to constitute a regulatory Commission for coal on the lines of the similar commission constituted for Power and Telecommunication.

(b) Does not arise in view of answer given in part (a) of the question

Setting up of Kiosks under Saksham Project

2727. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY:

SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

whether the Microsoft Corporation has announced their rural initiative "Saksham" under which the company would partner with NGOs to roll out 50,000 kiosks over the next three years;

if so, the details thereof; and

the details of such kiosks which are proposed to be set up in Orissa with the Central assistance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEELAHMAD): (a) to (c) there are media reports about "Saksham" initiative of Microsoft. This initiative is entirely of the company without the Government's involvement.

Disbursal of USO fund for rural telephony

2728. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

whether it is a fact that Government have expressed dissatisfaction at slow progress of the disbursal of Universal Service Obligation Fund for rural telephony;

whether it is a fact that the scheme is taking too long to reach the take off stage and the slow progress of disbursal is harming Government's plan to ensure 200 million mobile subscribers by the year 2007; and

if so, the efforts Government propose to make to ensure the scheme is implemented expeditiously?